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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT

GRID PATTERNS AND TRACK ACTIVITY NEAR AKSUAT, USSR



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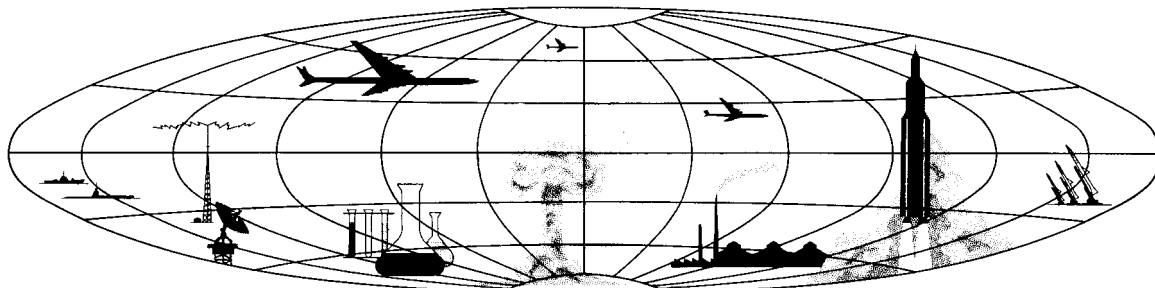


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NPIC/R-32/63

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A wide area of grid patterns and track activity extending 45 nautical miles (nm) westward from Lake Aksuat (51-21N 64-26E) to Lake Kamystykopa (51-32N 63-22E) was observed on KEYHOLE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Lake Aksuat, one of two lakes so named in the USSR, is located northeast of the Aral Sea in the Kazakh SSR, approximately 400 nm north of Kzyl-Orda and 200 nm east of Orsk.

The activity noted in this area is probably associated with the Soviet program for development of virgin lands. The land is divided into rectangular fields by ground scars, some of which extend beyond the cultivated areas onto the plains. The grid patterns observed are comprised of these ground scars, which are

probably agricultural survey lines. The planning evident in this development may well account for the resemblance of its housing and building layout to military-type installations.

An unidentified crop, possibly for animal feed or bedding, is produced on the dry bed of Lake Kamystykopa and stacked in long rows outside the lake bed. Plowed strips measuring about 10 feet in width surround the storage area and apparently serve as firebreaks.

The grid patterns and track activity near Aksuat seem wholly in character with a farm community, and it is highly probable that they are related exclusively to the agricultural activity of this area.

REFERENCES

PHOTOGRAPHY



MAPS OR CHARTS

AMS. Series 1301, Sheet NM-41, 1st ed, Aug 52, scale 1:1,000,000 (UNCLASSIFIED)

ACIC. World Aeronautical Chart 237, 3d ed, May 52, scale 1:1,000,000 (UNCLASSIFIED)

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